

I remember driving to the very first wedding I was going to officiate and wondering where my anxiety was ☺ being a singer/entertainer in some fashion for most of my life, I'd always carried around with me some form of stage nerves, they say that even the best in the business still get nervous when it's show time, but as my first performance as a marriage celebrant was drawing nearer the closer I was getting to the event, I kept noticing that something was different and those usual feelings that came along with being under the spotlight just weren't there, if anything, I simply felt a calm, and it was wonderful.

My husband had offered to be roadie for the day, to use the rock'n'roll vernacular, which I very much appreciated, you know, play chauffeur, carry my sound equipment into the venue, take a few promotional photos where possible, and just generally lend a hand if I needed one, and as we were driving along I remember saying to him that seeing it was my first official wedding and all, that it was really nice to be feeling completely at ease; and he being the show pony drummer that he is, who never gets nervous, said, "that's good babe", and left it at that; I dwelled on my thoughts a little longer until we got to the venue where my couple's ceremony was to be held, but once I said hello to my two very special people for the day and swung into action setting up for the event with roadie on tow, I didn't give my absent nervous tension another thought.

The ceremony could not have turned out to be any better. It was held on the green of the Anglesea Surf Lifesaving Club, and had stellar views of rolling blue waters and breaking surf taking place in the background. The weather was divine, the guests, all dressed to impress, looked friendly, the groom was surfer boy handsome, and the bride was a pretty as a rose, and when both their parents gave me their nod of approval I realized in that moment that this was the ultimate role for me to now play in my life moving forward.

Once the ceremony was complete, hubby took over as roadie, so this left me able to share a little time with my wedding couple's family and guests as they came to thank me for putting together such a wonderful ceremony (their words ~ not mine ☺), and before I knew it, the roadie and I were on the road again.

During the drive home I had time to reflect and it was then I realized that the role of celebrant holds a heavy component of being "in service to others", in fact, that is its only true component, and the sheer privilege of joining two people together in matrimony, and being able to put all focus and energy into their "once in a lifetime" special day, was a privilege worth its weight in gold, and it was this connection where I was finding my joy.

It's a well-known and well-studied fact that helping others makes us happy, and serving others is extremely good for our mental health, emotional well being, and self-esteem, and that the laws of the universe have shown us time and time again that those who serve others are more successful themselves, and I was now finding a role in my life that was going to offer me all of the above should I choose to accept it, and my answer to this proposal was ~ whole heartedly ~ "I DO".

So from the experience of my very first official wedding I came to understand that being in service to my couples and offering them my undivided attention by creating, alongside them, a personalised and memorable wedding ceremony every single time, was what I was now going to enjoy doing for the rest of my life; and as history would have it, I have now, over the past five years, loved pouring myself into this role, and I welcome as many successful unions as possible to come my way during my time as celebrant.

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